



Panel submits report on Uniform Civil Code to Gujarat CM

Gandhinagar(GNS): A five-member committee constituted by the Gujarat government to draft the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the state submitted its detailed and final report to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Tuesday.

The state government is likely to table a draft bill on the UCC in the legislative assembly during the ongoing budget session.

The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, made a presentation while submitting its report to the CM.

The government had formed the panel in February last year to explore various aspects related to the implementation of the UCC in

the state and prepare a draft bill for the same.

During the presentation, the panel's chairperson said it has suggested a common legal framework for all religions and communities on issues like marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption in the report, a government release stated.

In particular, equal rights and protection of women have been given priority, it said.

Retired senior IAS officer C L Meena, senior advocate R C Kodekar, former Vice Chancellor of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University Dr Dakshesh Thakar, and social worker Gita Shroff are other members of the committee.

Sources said the state govern-

ment may bring the draft bill on the UCC in the legislative assembly on March 25, the last day of the ongoing budget session.

At the time of the formation of the committee, the CM had said the state government was committed to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve of implementing UCC across the country.

CM Patel had also said the five-member committee would examine various aspects related to UCC and take into account views of people from different walks of life to prepare its report.

Initially, the panel was expected to submit its report in 45 days after examining various aspects. Later, the committee was given exten-



In August last year, the state government had said the panel held meetings with 38 Muslim organisations.

sions to understand their point of view on this proposed legislation.

The committee members travelled to all the districts of Gujarat and collected feedback from political and religious leaders, the state government had said.

People also expressed their opinions regarding UCC on a website created specifically for this reason and nearly 19 lakh suggestions were received by the panel, according to the government.

Despite the government's assurance, people from the Muslim community had registered their protest against the proposed UCC by forming human chains in Ahmedabad and Vadodara city of Gujarat in April 2025.

In December last year, the Gujarat High Court had rejected a plea challenging the constitution of a committee by the state government to assess the need for a UCC in the state. While rejecting the appeal filed by Surat-based petitioner Abdul Vahab Sopariwala, the HC had held that the court cannot interfere into the executive functions as laid down under Article 162 of the Constitution.

"Under Article 162 of the Constitution, the government holds such power. So, the separation of power principle has to apply. We do not have any power of judicial review in such functions which are purely in the domain of the state," the bench said.

Suspension of 8 Opposition MPs revoked; Birla says no more display of banners, posters

Gandhinagar(GNS): The Lok Sabha on Tuesday revoked with immediate effect the suspension of eight Opposition members, who were barred from the House on February 3 for "unruly" behaviour, with Speaker Om Birla stressing that there should be no display of placards, posters, photos or AI-generated images inside the House or in the Parliament complex.

00Congress member K Suresh requested the House to consider the revocation of the eight opposition members, saying whatever had happened in the House was regrettable, and that his party was ready to cooperate in the smooth functioning of the House.

Following the submissions by several opposition members, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said there was a need to draw a 'Laxman Rekha' for the smooth functioning of the House, which both treasury and opposition benches agreed to.

Speaker Birla said there is a need to ensure that no placards, posters, photos or AI-generated



images are displayed in the House or inside the Parliament complex.

Birla said that everyone is of the opinion that proceedings in the Parliament of the world's largest democracy should be smooth, and everyone should cooperate.

Rijiju then moved a motion to remove the suspension of seven Congress MPs and one CPI-M member, which was adopted by a voice vote.

The suspended MPs were Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole and Dean Kuriakose of the Congress, and S Ventakesan of the CPI(M).

The eight MPs were suspended on February 3 for "unruly" behaviour following a resolution passed by the Lok Sabha in the first half of the ongoing Budget session.

They were suspended for the

entire duration of the Budget session scheduled to conclude on April 2.

Earlier, after Suresh's submission, Samajwadi Party member Dharmendra Yadav supported the move, saying his party was ready to cooperate in maintaining the highest standards of Parliament.

"I want to assure the House that we will not do anything that hurts the dignity of the House. But the ruling alliance members should also behave properly," Yadav said, taking the name of BJP's Nishikant Dubey, whom he asked to "correct himself".

Dubey immediately refuted Yadav, saying that during his 17 years of Parliamentary career, he has not done anything that lowered the dignity of the House.

The BJP MP also demanded an apology from the Samajwadi Party MP for his remarks.

NCP leader Supriya Sule said efforts should be made by both ruling and opposition members so that the House functions smoothly. No one should make any personal comments on anyone.

SC reads down 'discriminatory' law limiting maternity leave to adoption of children under 3 months

Gandhinagar(GNS): Holding that adoption is part of the right to reproductive autonomy, the Supreme Court on Tuesday read down a law that restricted the eligibility of a woman to maternity leave only if she legally adopted a child below the age of three months.

A bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan ruled that an adoptive mother should be entitled to maternity leave of 12 weeks, irrespective of the age of the adopted child.

The bench said, "We have reached the conclusion that Section 60(4) of the 2020 Code, insofar it puts an age limit of three months on the age of the adoptive child, for the adoptive mothers to avail maternity benefit under the 2020 Code, is violative of Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life which includes reproductive autonomy) of the Constitution respectively."

Accordingly, it declared that the sub-section (4) of Section 60 of the 2020 Code should now be meaningfully read as: - "(4) A woman who legally adopts a child or a commissioning mother shall be entitled to maternity benefit for a period of twelve weeks from the date the child is handed over to the adopting mother or the commissioning mother, as the case may be."

The bench said, "The distinction drawn by sub-section (4) of Section 60 does not have a rational nexus with the object of the 2020 Code. The object of maternity benefit is not associated with the process of childbirth but with the process of motherhood. The purpose



of maternity protection does not vary with the manner in which the child is brought into the life of the beneficiary mother. Insofar as the roles, responsibilities, and care-giving obligations are concerned, women who adopt a child aged three months or above are similarly situated to women who adopt a child below the age of three months."

Writing the judgment for the bench, Justice Pardiwala said, "The right of reproductive autonomy is not confined to the biological act of giving birth. Adoption is an equal exercise of the right to reproductive and decisional autonomy under Article 21 of the Constitution."

Maintaining that the protection of maternity benefits cannot be confined to keeping in mind the age of the child, the court said there was no distinction between a natural mother and an adoptive mother, as they have the same rights and obligations towards the child.

Pakistan airstrike in Afghanistan kills 400, injures 250

Kabul(GNS): Pakistan launched another airstrike on Afghanistan on Monday night. Pakistani Air Force fighter jets targeted several areas of the capital, Kabul, including a hospital. According to Reuters, 400 people were killed and more than 250 injured.

According to reports, sounds of explosions and gunfire were heard at several places around Darul Aman, Arjan Qimat, Khairkhana and Kabul International Airport.

Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has alleged that Pakistani forces bombed a drug de-addiction hospital in Kabul.

The Taliban strongly condemned



the attack, calling it a crime against humanity and said that Pakistan had violated Afghanistan's airspace.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's spokesman Mosharrarf Zaidi termed these allegations baseless and said that no hospital was targeted in Kabul.

India said - attack on Kabul hospi-

tal is genocide

India has strongly criticized Pakistan for the attack on a hospital in the Afghan capital, Kabul, calling it "cowardly" and a "genocide."

A statement issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs stated that this was a highly inhumane and immoral act of violence that resulted in the loss of a large number of innocent civilian lives. The Ministry also clarified that targeting a location that cannot be considered a military target under any circumstances is completely wrong. The statement accused Pakistan of trying to portray the attack as a military action, which is unacceptable.

Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Odisha, and Mizoram leading in HPV vaccination

Gandhinagar(GNS): Senior officials have said that states including Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Odisha, and Mizoram are leading from the front in the nationwide HPV vaccination campaign.

Within just a fortnight of its launch, nearly 3 lakh girls aged 14 years have already been vaccinated.

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine plays a vital role in preventing cervical cancer, one of the most common cancers affecting women.

"The campaign has been strategically rolled out during the academic period, and while examinations are currently underway in many regions,



the response has remained strong. With the conclusion of the exam season approaching, the momentum of the vaccination drive is expected to accelerate significantly, enabling wider coverage and ensuring that

more girls benefit from this life-saving intervention," officials said.

The nationwide free HPV vaccination campaign was launched on February 28, setting a target of vaccinating approximately 1.2 crore eligible beneficiary girls, aged 14 years, across all 36 states, including union territories.

The single-dose Gardasil-4 vaccine is administered free of cost at government health facilities, including Ayushman Arogya Mandirs-Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Sub-District Hospitals/District Hospitals & Government Medical Colleges across all areas including rural and underserved area.

Suspension of 8 opposition MPs lifted from Lok Sabha Speaker Birla told MPs - do not show posters and images created by AI

New Delhi(GNS): The 4th for the entire Budget suspensions imposed on eight MPs suspended during the first phase of the Lok Sabha debate were lifted on Tuesday. These eight MPs, seven from the Congress and one from the Left, were suspended from the Lok Sabha on February



in the House. Three MPs, including Congress MP K. Suresh, moved a suspension motion. It was subsequently passed by voice vote. Earlier, SP MP Dharmendra Yadav supported it. Yadav said that the ruling party must also respect the decorum of the

House. He urged BJP MP Nishikant Dubey to take special care of this. Following this, the ruling party began creating a ruckus in the House. Speaker Om Birla told members, "Do not display placards and AI-generated images."

West Bengal poll: TMC announces list of 291 candidates, Mamata leads charge in Bhabanipur

New Delhi(GNS): The All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) released its list of 291 candidates for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly election on Tuesday, projecting confidence of a sweeping victory. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will contest from the Bhabanipur constituency again, reaffirming her stronghold in the region. Other key candidates include Shashi Panja from Shyampur and Kunal Ghosh from Belegkata. Senior leader Firhad Hakim has been nominated from Kolkata Port, while Sirsanya Bandopadhyay will contest from

Uttarpara. Highlighting its focus on social representation, the party's candidate list includes 52 women, 95 candidates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and 47 from minority communities. Addressing the media, Mamata Banerjee expressed strong confidence in TMC's electoral prospects, asserting that the party would secure more than 226 seats in the assembly. She dismissed BJP's chances, saying, "This is a fight for the 'astivta' (identity) of West Bengal," and adding that BJP's seat tally would decline compared to the previous election.

Apple founder salutes the 'crazy people'

Sanat Jain

On the 50th anniversary of Apple, Tim Cook, head of the global giant Apple, has delivered an inspiring message. He said that people whom society initially considers "crazy" and unsuccessful are often the ones who bring about significant change. According to him, innovative thinking and innovative approaches to social change pave the way for future needs and social change. He said that Apple began with a small idea, which later blossomed into a large company. Later, with this idea, other partners, including Steve Jobs

and his colleagues, conducted many imaginative experiments in the world of technology. With the changing times, Apple has played a significant role globally in bringing about technological change through products like computers, smartphones, and tablets. This is something everyone is proud of. It is innovative thinking that makes history. Tim Cook believes that those who break away from tradition and move forward with new thinking create history. Society often considers such people to be different or unusual. When they act on their vision, it takes years to see results. In such a situation, fami-

ly members, friends, and others either consider them crazy or failures. It is these people, through their commitment to their vision, who pave new paths for society, creating new possibilities, which is crucial for social change. Tim Cook has a message for young people: if they have a new idea, they must have the courage to pursue it patiently and persistently. People may not initially understand that idea, but that very idea ultimately becomes the reason for world change. According to Tim Cook, innovation, courage, and a different perspective are what make the future better. This message from the Apple founder

demonstrates that every person's thinking is different. When they envision a major change, they work not for themselves but for society. This thinking sets them apart from others. They strive with every possible concentration to bring their vision to fruition. He faces many setbacks along the way, but these very failures transform him into extraordinary success. Every person has a unique perspective, a unique scope, and when he begins working on it with complete dedication and conviction, the results begin to match. The successes of Microsoft, Apple, and others in the technology field are a source

of inspiration for today's youth. Without capital or resources, they achieve success by working according to their vision, by maintaining patience, and by not being discouraged even by repeated failures. This is the proof of their success. In the current context, when our youth are imagining employment through degrees, today's youth must draw inspiration from Apple, Microsoft, and other successful individuals and institutions. Just as water carves its own path, those who strive to shape their careers with consistent effort are sure to achieve success. This is the message of Apple's founder.

Editorial

vote grabbing elections

Elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry have been announced amid confusion, crisis, and profound questions. A total of 174 million voters in these four states and the Union Territory will exercise their constitutional right to elect governments, but this is the first time that over 16.5 million voters have been disenfranchised. So many voters have been deleted after the Election Commission's Special Intensive Review (SIR). Were they all Bangladeshi or Rohingya infiltrators? The Election Commission has not provided any clarification on this question. The most sensitive, and to some extent unconstitutional, case is in West Bengal. 63.66 lakh voters were deleted under the SIR, but the claims of over 1 million voters were later found to be valid, and they were included in the electoral rolls. The scrutiny of over 5 million voters is still ongoing, with judicial officials conducting the investigation, and elections have been announced in the meantime. Will these more than 5 million voters be unable to vote? Can elections be held with such widespread disenfranchisement? This investigation is ongoing under the supervision of the Calcutta High Court. This issue in Bengal has also been raised in the Supreme Court, but there is no clear answer as to whether deleting so many votes is unconstitutional. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee argued that voters under scrutiny who are not currently on the electoral roll should be at least partially entitled to vote in the assembly elections, but the Election Commission did not agree.

As a result, over 5 million voters in Bengal will be unable to vote in this election. Is this why India's democracy and Constitution are considered "great"? Is the Election Commission above the Constitution and autocratic? If suspicious voters are found to be correct after scrutiny, and the elections are completed, yet they remain deprived of their right to vote, who will be responsible? Can the Chief Election Commissioner and both Commissioners be dismissed? Absolutely not, because the Constitution provides for the removal of these Commissioners only through impeachment. 130 Lok Sabha and 63 Rajya Sabha MPs have signed notices of impeachment against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, yet Gyanesh has no concern for morality. He refuses to comment on political issues or answer media questions.



Global Recycling Day is celebrated worldwide every year on March 18th. The main objective of this day is to raise awareness about the importance of recycling. Recycling is a crucial step towards saving our planet and humanity's future. Every year, the Earth produces billions of tons of natural resources, but a time will come when these resources will either be exhausted or become scarce. Therefore, it is essential that we seriously consider what we are throwing away and how we are doing so.



Role of recycling in environmental protection and sustainable development

Sunil Kumar Mahala

We should view waste not as mere waste, but as a potential resource and opportunity for the future. However, let me remind readers that the past decade (from 2015 to 2024) has been the hottest decade on record, and the entire world is facing an unprecedented climate emergency. According to scientific data, 2024 is projected to be the hottest year ever, while 2023 also set new temperature records. Additionally, 2016, 2020, and 2019 were also among the hottest years. In fact, this increasing heat is attributed to climate change, rising greenhouse gases, and human activities, leading to heatwaves and new temperature records worldwide. Unless significant and immediate changes are made, global temperatures will continue to rise, leading to the rapid melting of glaciers and ice caps, continental fires, rapid deforestation, floods, and earthquakes. These conditions directly impact human life, resulting in increased poverty, migration of displaced communities, job losses, massive piles of waste, and the destruction of natural habitats. Recycling emerges as an effective solution.

World Recycling Day was established by the Global Recycling Foundation and was first celebrated on March 18, 2018. Each year, the day is marked by a specific theme. The theme for 2025 was "Breaking Barriers: A Revolutionary Blueprint for the Waste Management Crisis." The theme for 2026 is "Recycling Heroes: Innovation and Action."

The theme is to honor those individuals (such as scientists, organizations, or environmental activists) and those institutions and new technologies who are inventing innovative ways (innovations) and taking concrete action (action) to recycle waste into useful resources. Today, as global problems like environmental pollution and resource depletion continue to grow, recycling proves to be extremely helpful in protecting our blue planet. This day teaches us that it is our duty to responsibly use natural resources such as water, air, oil, natural gas, coal, and minerals. Simply put, recycling means reprocessing a used or discarded item and making it usable again. This means that items we often discard as waste after use, such as paper, plastic, glass, and metal, are being recycled. Recycling is the process of transforming waste or other materials into new objects through special processes. In short, recycling is the process of making useless or used items useful again, saving resources and protecting the environment. In fact, Global Recycling Day is not just a one-day celebration, but a call for positive change in our lifestyles. When we start viewing objects as resources instead of "waste," we lay the foundation for a healthy and safe Earth for future generations. Today, the world's population is constantly growing, and with this population, the use of goods and resources also increases. As resource use and consumption increases, so does the amount of waste, putting severe pressure on the environment. In this con-

text, recycling becomes an essential and effective measure for environmental protection and sustainable development. Recycling has numerous benefits. It saves natural resources, reduces waste, reduces land, water, and air pollution, and helps maintain environmental balance. And energy is saved, because recycling old items requires less energy than making new ones. Recycling reduces carbon emissions and greenhouse gases, helping to combat climate change. Additionally, it creates new jobs, boosts the economy, and reduces the need for raw materials. Therefore, it is essential to effectively implement recycling policies and laws, encourage people to use them, and promote research and development in this area. Although recycling is widely discussed around the world, but the reality is that very little waste is still recycled. Globally, only about 6.9% of materials are recycled. Of the approximately 106 billion tons of resources used in the global economy, only 6.9% are reused through recycling. The situation with plastic recycling is even more concerning. Only 9-10% of the plastic produced globally is recycled. Approximately 220 million tons of plastic waste will be generated in 2024, but only a small portion of it will be properly recycled. Similarly, of the 400 million tons of plastic produced in 2022, only 9.5% will be made from recycled materials. Currently, the world produces approximately 400-414 million tons of plastic each year, and if this trend continues, plastic use could nearly triple by

2060. Since 1950, more than 9 billion tons of plastic have been produced globally, and approximately 350 million tons of plastic waste is generated annually. Furthermore, approximately 8 million tons of plastic ends up in the oceans each year, posing a serious threat to marine life and the environment. India generates approximately 62 million tons of waste annually, but only about 25% of this waste is processed or recycled, leaving approximately 75% unprocessed. India is the third-largest e-waste producer in the world, generating approximately 1.7 million tons of e-waste in 2023-24. It's worth noting that a large portion of recycling in India is handled by the informal sector. Approximately 1.5 million waste pickers are engaged in this work, contributing significantly to the recycling process. While approximately 75% of the waste remains unprocessed, India is the world's third-largest e-waste producer, generating approximately 1.7 million tons of e-waste in 2023-24. It's worth noting that a large portion of recycling in India is done by the informal sector. Approximately 1.5 million waste pickers are engaged in this work, contributing significantly to the recycling process. While approximately 75% of the waste remains unprocessed, India is the world's third-largest e-waste producer, generating approximately 1.7 million tons of e-waste in 2023-24. It's worth noting that a large portion of recycling in India is done by the informal sector. Approximately 1.5 million waste pickers are engaged in this work, contributing significantly to the recycling process.

Menstrual Leave: Supreme Court's Judgment and a Global Perspective!

Sunil Kumar Mahala

Recently, on March 13, 2026, the Honorable Supreme Court refused to hear a petition seeking mandatory period leave for working women and female students across the country. A bench headed by Surya Kant, the 53rd Chief Justice of India, stated that making such a policy legally mandatory could have negative consequences. The court clarified that if such a provision were enacted into law, many employers might hesitate to employ women, potentially adversely affecting their careers. Thus, the Supreme Court declined to hear the petition seeking mandatory paid period leave, citing practical concerns. The petition filed in the Supreme Court sought to provide working women and female students across the country with a few days'

leave every month, given the physical discomfort they experience during menstruation. The petition argued that while pregnancy leave is provided, there is no universal provision for menstrual problems. It also stated that some states and many private companies already provide two days of period leave per month, and therefore, the Supreme Court should direct all states to enact such regulations. Senior advocate M.R. Shamshad, representing the petitioner, also pointed out that the Kerala government has implemented such a system in schools, and that many private companies across the country are also voluntarily offering paid period leave. Hearing the case, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi stated that while a company voluntarily grants leave during menstruation is a good thing,

once it is strictly enforced as law, other aspects will also need to be considered. The court expressed concern that making such a provision mandatory could lead employers to shy away from hiring women. This could hinder women's opportunities in government jobs, the judiciary, or other professions, potentially impacting their careers. The court also commented that such petitions often create a sense of fear and convey the impression that menstruation is a negative or extraordinary event for women. In this regard, Supreme Court Chief Justice Surya Kant stated that women should not be considered so vulnerable. He told the petitioner that such demands could also create a negative mindset regarding the development and maturity of women in the workplace. During the hearing, the court also noted that the petitioner had

already placed her demand before the Ministry of Women and Child Development, and therefore, the government could consider formulating a policy on this issue after discussing it with all stakeholders. The court suggested that the relevant authorities consider the representation and draft a policy in consultation with various stakeholders. Justice Joymalya Bagchi also stated that while the idea may be good, it is important to consider the employers' perspectives as well. Because they will also have to bear the responsibility of providing paid leave. In fact, this entire issue has led to differing opinions within society and among women. Many women believe that they have achieved equality in the workplace after decades of struggle. Therefore, requiring special leave may make them appear weak or less

capable than men. In corporate culture, availability is often considered a measure of success, so women who take a certain amount of leave each month may be excluded from important projects or leadership roles. Some women also believe that mandatory period leave will lead to many organizations prioritizing men over women, which could reduce women's participation in the workforce.

They also argue that menstruation is a natural process and should not be viewed as a weakness. Many women are welcoming the Supreme Court's decision. On the other hand, some women believe that a balanced or middle path should be found on this issue. They believe that instead of making period leave mandatory, the option of working from home or flexible working hours should be offered.

Phool Waalon Ki Sair kicks off after gap of over a year

New Delhi, (GNS): The week-long celebrations of Phool Waalon Ki Sair began on Sunday after a gap of more than one year, reviving a centuries-old tradition that symbolises communal harmony in the capital.

Representatives of Anjuman Sair-e-Gul Faroshan - the body that has organised the event for decades - presented a floral pankha to chief minister Rekha Gupta and art and culture minister Kapil Mishra, among others, on Monday.

Sadbhavna Yatra, a traditional procession covering parts of Old Delhi, is scheduled for Tuesday. The procession, accompa-



nied by floral pankhas, shehnai and nagada, will begin from Gauri Shankar Temple and pass through Town Hall and other areas of Chandni Chowk.

In another key ritual of the festival, a floral chadar

and pankha will be offered at the dargah of Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki and Yogmaya Temple in Mehrauli on Thursday.

Usha Kumar, general secretary of the Anjuman, said, "We will present the

pankha to LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Tuesday and invite him to join the ritual of offering floral chadar."

Phool Waalon Ki Sair is usually held in Nov, but could not take place last year after Delhi Development Authority (DDA) did not grant permission to the Anjuman to hold programmes at Aam Bagh, a DDA park located in front of Jahaz Mahal, near Mehrauli's Shamsi Talab. Similarly, in 2024, authorities did not give its consent to organise the traditional Jhoola Mela at the same venue. Media had earlier reported that the centuries-old tradition might face discontinua-

tion due to repeated disruptions.

According to Kumar, the authorities were hesitant to allow the event last Nov due to concerns over rising air pollution, heavy traffic congestion in the city during the period and its proximity to major festivals like Dussehra and Diwali. Following discussions, permission was eventually granted to hold the event this March instead, Kumar said. DDA also gave its nod to organise the celebrations at the same venue in Mehrauli, with events like traditional dangal, ghazal performances and qawwali scheduled this week.

Operation Sindoor remarks: Haryana gov't drops case against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad

New Delhi, (GNS): The Haryana gov't on Monday informed Supreme Court that it, as "one-time magnanimity", has decided to drop the case against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad for making objectionable statements against 'Operation Sindoor'.

Appearing for Haryana, additional solicitor general S V Raju told a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that the Haryana gov't has refused sanction for Mahmudabad's prosecution, which would mean the case is closed even though the state police had filed a chargesheet against him. However, he said SC should warn him against making such statements in the future. The court approved the "one-time magnanimity" offer and asked the professor, who was arrested in May last year,



to be careful about what he says. "Sometimes reading between the lines conveys a very different message and causes problem", and the professor should desist from such statements, the bench said.

Approving the closure of the case against Mahmudabad, pending before judicial magistrate first class at Sonapat, the bench said, "We have no reason to doubt that the petitioner, a highly educated person, will be cautious and act in a prudent manner in the future."

Travel agencies operating from NFC sour foreign dreams for many



New Delhi, (GNS): Police have registered two cases against travel agencies for allegedly duping people on the pretext of placing them in jobs abroad that turned out to be fake and left them stranded overseas. Two persons, one from Bihar and another from Uttar Pradesh, lodged complaints with the ministry of external affairs against the agencies allegedly operating in southeast Delhi's New Friends Colony.

Sahil Ali from Uttar Pradesh, who has a doctorate, was allegedly sent to Malaysia by one of the agencies on the promise of a job. However, he ended up stranded there for nearly two months. Speaking to Media, his brother Rashid said the family repeatedly tried to contact him but got no response and eventually filed a complaint with the ministry. After almost two months, Sahil managed to contact his family and asked them to book a return ticket. Authorities later traced him, and he is expected to return to India on Wednesday.

In the other case, Ritesh Kumar, a resident of Bihar's Gopalganj, filed a complaint. Kumar said in his complaint that a Delhi-based agency was involved in the recruitment. A senior police officer said Kumar was promised a job, but upon arriving in Saudi Arabia, he was asked to take on some other work, which was not the job he had been told about.

When he expressed his desire to return, but was stranded. Officials from the office of the protector of emigrants said the agency is not registered under the Emigration Act, 1983, and not authorised to conduct overseas recruitment.

Police said that in both the cases, FIRs were registered under Sections 10 and 24 of the Emigration Act. A senior police officer said that the people who were duped were from small villages in other states. They were often lured with the enticing promise of high-paying jobs abroad. "We found both the establishments were closed," the officer said.

In Jan, police registered two cases after complaints from three men who were cheated by two recruitment firms.

Rescued From Iran, Grounded In Dubai

New Delhi, (GNS): A loud blast minutes before boarding triggered panic at Dubai International Airport on Monday, forcing authorities to halt a Delhi-bound flight carrying Indian students and pilgrims evacuated from war-torn Iran. The flight finally landed in Delhi after a delay of more than 12 hours.

Earlier, at Dubai airport, passengers waiting near the gate were rushed back inside the terminal as fears of another attack spread. "They told us nothing had happened. But when we checked online, we saw reports of a drone attack nearby," said Labeeb Qadiri, a final-year MBBS student at Urmia University in Iran who was among those stranded at the airport.

Authorities suspended operations at Dubai International Airport after a drone strike hit a fuel storage tank near the airport, sparking a fire that was later contained



by civil defence teams. The incident forced airlines to delay or divert several flights as a precaution.

Nearly 80 Indian students and pilgrims - most of them from Kashmir - remained stuck at Dubai airport for several hours after the incident disrupted flight operations. The students had travelled from Armenia to Dubai as part

of the second batch of Indians leaving Iran amid the ongoing conflict. The Flydubai flight FZ441 was originally scheduled to land at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport at 9.55am Monday. After hours of uncertainty, it finally departed late afternoon and landed in Delhi just after 10pm.

Students said airport

authorities were first clearing flights that had been delayed earlier, to places like Riyadh and Kabul. "They told us ours may go later, so there was no clarity for hours," Qadri said.

For many students, the delay came after an already long and exhausting escape from Iran. Several travelled 9-19 hours by bus to reach the Armenia border, after waiting days for visas. With transport scarce, students said they had to arrange buses and hotel stays themselves before flying out. Not everyone could afford the sudden journey. Those who could, pooled money to help others make the trip. "Some didn't have the money at that moment. So, everyone contributed. We couldn't leave our friends behind to die," Qadiri said.

The prolonged delay in Dubai also disrupted onward travel plans for many. Several students were scheduled to take connecting flights from

Delhi to Srinagar, which were missed due to the late arrival.

Landing late at night also meant additional expenses for many students. "We may have to look for a hotel tonight or wait at the airport till morning for another flight. After everything we've been through, it's just another uncertainty," one student said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association urged authorities to arrange transport - preferably buses - from Delhi to Kashmir, saying the students had already endured a long and stressful journey from a conflict zone.

By the time the flight landed in Delhi late Monday night, many students were visibly exhausted but relieved to have reached India safely. Outside the arrivals gate, the scene was one of emotional reunions. As an MBBS student stepped out, her mother broke down in tears and hugged her tightly, welcoming her with flowers.

Anticipatory bail denied to 2019 MCOCA case accused

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi court dismissed an anticipatory bail plea of an accused in a 2019 case registered under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), observing that he was allegedly a member of an "organised crime syndicate involved in multiple offences".

Judge Sonu Agnihotri said that the syndicate was linked to seven criminal cases, and courts had taken cognisance of four cases in the last decade, thereby satisfying the statutory requirement of "continuing unlawful activity" under the law. The court noted that Riyazuddin's name was included in the proposal under MCOCA and approved by the additional commissioner of police (crime). It held that the stringent bail conditions under the Act were not met.

The defence argued that the dispute stemmed from a Feb 1, 2022, incident when the accused, a driver, was stopped by a PCR vehicle while driving



his RTV bus after a minor collision with an auto. The counsel alleged that inspector Yogender threatened to arrest him and impound the vehicle, and demanded a bribe for its release. The defence claimed the accused later paid protection money to avoid challans and possessed a video recording of the transaction, arguing the case was filed to target him for exposing alleged police corruption. The defence further claimed that the accused was "falsely implicated after raising complaints against police officials". The counsel said he wrote to the LG in 2022 against inspector Yogender and constable Shokendra, and later filed another complaint against SI Sahansar Pal in

2025, and approached Delhi High Court seeking registration of an FIR against them.

Opposing the plea, the prosecution, led by Pravin Rahul, argued that anticipatory bail is not provided under MCOCA, and the accused was part of an organised crime syndicate allegedly led by Raj Kumar alias Raju Meena, who has been arrested.

The prosecution argued the complaints against police officers were an "afterthought", noting that they were filed only after a separate FIR was registered against him. The prosecution also cited statements of protected witnesses and confessional statements of the co-accused alleging that he used associates to secretly record videos of police personnel for extortion and blackmail.

Agreeing with the prosecution, the court observed that there was "no reason to disbelieve the allegations against the accused", and dismissed the anticipatory bail plea.

LG Sandhu takes up civic complaints on social media

New Delhi, (GNS): Newly appointed lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, taking cognisance of civic complaints on social media in which he is tagged, has directed agencies to take prompt action on the cases and monitor their progress.

He is asking departments to update the status of complaints on social media platforms, with visual or video evidence of the work carried out.

The initiative aims to improve accountability and ensure faster grievance redress and real-time monitoring of civic issues raised by residents, officials said.

In one of the first interventions under the revived system, residents of DDA's EWS flats in Kalkaji - developed under the Jahan Jhuggi Wahin Makaan rehabilitation scheme for slum dwellers - flagged waterlogging in the still area of



their housing complex on social media. They tagged the LG in the post. Sandhu forwarded the matter to DDA and directed officials to resolve the issue in a time-bound manner.

Similarly, a grievance regarding garbage lying on a roadside and near the wall of a park in the densely populated Mehrauli-Chhatarpur area was taken up in the same way. Following directions from the LG, MCD cleared the garbage and cleaned the area in record time, an official said.

Passenger footfall to triple at Noida in 5 years; domestic flyers to be mainstay

New Delhi, (GNS): The upcoming Noida International Airport expects to see a rapid increase in footfall, the growth fuelled largely by domestic flights and an aviation fuel price advantage with which it expects to draw more airlines. Passenger numbers are expected to triple in five years - from 67.4 lakh in FY '27 to over 2 crore in FY '31, according to Noida International Airport's (NIA) tariff papers submitted with Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA). If the airport touches this number, the second phase of development could get triggered within two years of the launch.

Apart from availability of slots, unlike the absolute crunch at NCR's big brother IGI Airport, UP will charge 1% VAT on aviation turbine fuel as opposed to 25% by Delhi for IGLA, a factor weighing heavily with airlines. IndiGo, Akasa and Air India will be the launch customers at NIA. The upcoming Subha Airways will also have its base at NIA.

Expected to be inaugurated later this month, NIA is looking at starting operations this summer and AERA estimates international operations from Aug-Sept. If these timelines are not further delayed, the authority projects NIA - which begins operations with a capacity of 1.2 crore passengers annually - will see 66 lakh domestic and 1.4 lakh

international passengers in FY 2027 (the latter accounting for 2% of the total 67.4 lakh footfall) Total passenger footfall is expected to rise almost three-fold to over 2 crore in FY 31, with 1.9 crore domestic fly-



ers. "NIA's passenger traffic in the initial years will be driven by its catchment area... under 120-minute free flow travel time include the entire Delhi, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and parts of Meerut,

Sonapat, Jhajjar, Rewari. Traffic is expected to expand rapidly in the initial years due to pent-up demand from these catchment areas and availability of premium slots. However, being a greenfield airport, traffic is expected to take two to three years to stabilise. Airlines are expected to start new services to untapped markets and increase frequency to Tier-1 markets for which they would be availing NIA facilities for operations," said a source with the airport operator. NIA's passenger growth projections are in contrast to existing airports, where passenger numbers tend to remain stagnant due to operational maturity. AERA had in

Aug issued an ad hoc tariff with user development fee ranging from Rs 210 to Rs 980 as it was then expected the airport will become operational in 2025. That didn't happen. Now, the process for regular tariff determination has kicked off. The operator is yet to submit its proposed tariff card based on which the regular aeronautical charges and user development fee will be decided. AERA has proposed an aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) of Rs 6,855 crore against an ARR of Rs 8,702 crore submitted by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, the airport's operator.

"Determination of aeronautical charges and UDF requires a delicate balance between cost recovery and its potential impact on air traffic demand."

requires a delicate balance between cost recovery and its potential impact on air traffic demand.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Sub: Expression of Interest (EOI) for Engagement of Professional Housekeeping Agencies for Better On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) in Coaching Trains over Western Railway.

On behalf of President of India PCME/WR invites EOI to empanel competent and experienced agencies for providing enhanced and high-quality On-Board Housekeeping Services as per the policy guidelines on "Reforms for Better On-Board Services" and Technical Evaluation Criteria.

- EOI may be submitted in sealed envelope using prescribed format, along with complete details of technical offer and relevant documents. The EOI proposals should be submitted in the Box available in Dy. CME/Chg.WR, Mech. Wing, First Floor GLO building, Churchgate, Mumbai 400020 during office hours from Monday to Friday.
- EOI offer and document can be downloaded from the website <https://wr.indianrailways.gov.in>
- Date & time of EOI documents submission: Within 21 Days of issue of EOI.



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Barapullah-III: Travel from Mayur Vihar to AIIMS signal-free by end of this June

New Delhi,(GNS): Delhi govt on Monday approved two major road infrastructure projects aimed at easing congestion and improving connectivity across the capital, while also clearing a proposal for free bus travel for transgender persons and announcing the schedule for the upcoming budget session of the assembly. Among the key decisions taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Rekha Gupta at Delhi Secretariat was the approval of Barapullah Phase-III elevated corridor project at a revised cost of Rs 1,635 crore.

By connecting Mayur Vihar to Sarai Kale Khan, it will extend the existing Barapullah corridor and provide signal-free connectivity between Mayur Vihar in east Delhi and south Delhi's AIIMS, reducing travel time for lakhs of commuters. Set to be completed by this June 30, it is expected to ease congestion around Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, DND Flyway and National Highway-24, Gupta said.

The cabinet also approved another major infrastructure project - a six-lane elevated

corridor along Mehrauli-Badarpur Road with multiple underpasses. Estimated to cost Rs 1,471 crore, it will stretch from Saket G-Block to Pul Prahladpur and will be executed by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

The project will be implemented in two phases. In the first, a double-decker integrated structure will be built between Saket and Sangam Vihar. This will include a six-lane elevated flyover, a six-lane underpass at Saket G-Block, an elevated ramp connecting the BRT corridor to the flyover and a two-lane underpass linking MB Road with the corridor. In second phase, a nearly 2.5-kilometre-long six-lane elevated flyover will be constructed from Maa Anandmayee Marg to Pul Prahladpur. It

will run above the Delhi metro line.

Officials said the project is expected to ease congestion on MB Road, which is one of the busiest corridors in south Delhi. Once completed, traffic movement between Saket, Ambedkar Nagar, Khanpur, Sangam Vihar and Pul Prahladpur is expected to become smoother, resulting in the reduction of travel time.

The cabinet also directed Public Works Department (PWD) to finalise the alignment of the remaining stretches of MB Road, including the sections from Sangam Vihar to Maa Anandmayee Marg and from Pul Prahladpur to Badarpur.

LPG supply cut disrupts JNU canteens students seek preventive measures

New Delhi,(GNS): Food services in several hostels and canteens at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) have been affected following restrictions on LPG supply, prompting student groups to demand immediate steps from the university administration.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) announced that it will hold a march to the office of the Dean of Students on Tuesday, urging authorities to take preventive measures to ensure that mess facilities and campus dhabas continue to operate smoothly.

According to letters issued by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)

to mess authorities at Sabarmati and Lohit hostels, gas supply to industrial and commercial consumers has been reduced to 80 per cent of their average consumption over the last six months. The restriction came into effect from 6 am on March 11.

Following the 20 per cent reduction in supply, some hostel messes have begun revising their menus. At Lohit hostel, the updated schedule indicates that items such as roti and poori will not be served on certain days. For instance, Tuesday and Saturday lunches will not include roti, with alternatives like rice or khichdi being offered instead.

CBI to look into 'irregularities' in scholarship fund

New Delhi,(GNS): Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case and initiated a probe into allegations of irregularities in scholarship funds allocated by the ministry of social justice & empowerment for students with disabilities.

This move followed a preliminary inquiry into the ministry's complaint, which suggested that around Rs 11 crore was siphoned off through the creation of fictitious beneficiaries during the 2023-24 period. Currently, 13 different institutions are being scrutinised for their alleged involvement in the misappropriation of these public funds. The probe agency filed the FIR under sections of criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery.

Officials said that a complaint was filed by the ministry in 2023, and a preliminary inquiry was initiated by CBI. "A physical verification of 100 educational institutions was carried out, and 18 institutes were found to be 'fake' on the national scholarship portal," said an officer.

Friend records as Delhi man shoots himself in the chest

New Delhi,(GNS): A man allegedly shot himself in the chest while his friend was recording a video of him loading a pistol in east Delhi's Dallupura, police said on Tuesday. According to police, the incident was captured on camera, even though the person filming appeared unaware of his friend Pawan's intentions.

In the video, Pawan can be seen inserting a magazine into a licensed pistol and loading the weapon. The man recording the act can be heard giving him tips on how to load the firearm and cautioning him, saying, "Bhai, chalana mat (Brother, don't fire it)". Moments later, Pawan places the pistol against the left side of his chest, briefly looks towards the camera and pulls the trigger before collapsing on the ground, with the man recording the act expressing shock. Though police rushed Pawan to a hospital, he died during treatment, officials said. His friend's mobile phone, containing the footage, has been seized. The licensed pistol along with 10 live cartridges has also been taken into custody, the police added.

Crime and forensic teams inspected both the scene of occurrence and the hospital, collecting all relevant evidence. The body has been shifted to LBS Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination.

Dwarka accident: Cops claim minor drove negligently

New Delhi,(GNS): A chargesheet has been filed by police in connection with an incident in Dwarka that killed 23-year-old Sahil Dhaneshra last month. The minor driver did not possess a valid licence and drove negligently, it stated. Sahil lost his life after being hit by a car allegedly driven by a minor on Feb 3 in Dwarka Sector-11.

Police sources said that a preliminary inquiry report was filed on Thursday. They added that another chargesheet was filed against the minor's father for allowing an unauthorised person to drive the vehicle. It was submitted last week in a Dwarka court. Earlier, police seized the SUV and invoked provisions of Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act against the father, which holds guardians or vehicle owners accountable when a minor commits a traffic offence.




Rise of Prosperity Golden Age of Uttar Pradesh

Marking 9 Years of Unprecedented Development and Sustainable Prosperity in Uttar Pradesh

Release of the Annual Book Navnirman ke 9 Varsh

By **Yogi Adityanath**
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

In the august presence of

Pankaj Chaudhary Minister of State, Finance, Government of India	Keshav Prasad Maurya Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	Brajesh Pathak Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
Suresh Kumar Khanna Minister, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs, Uttar Pradesh	Surya Pratap Shahi Minister, Agriculture, Agricultural Education and Agricultural Research, Uttar Pradesh	Baby Rani Maurya Minister, Women's Welfare, Child Development and Nutrition, Uttar Pradesh
Ashish Patel Minister, Technical Education, Consumer Protection, Weights and Measures, Uttar Pradesh	Sanjay Nishad Minister, Fisheries, Uttar Pradesh	Om Prakash Rajbhar Minister, Panchayati Raj, Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj, Uttar Pradesh
		Anil Kumar Minister, Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh

And other dignitaries

Date: 18th March, 2026 | Time: 11:00 AM | Venue: Lok Bhawan Auditorium, Lucknow

Highlights Screening of the Documentary Film 'Navnirman ke 9 Varsh' | Screening of the Short Film based on the theme of Uttar Pradesh-Utsav Pradesh: 'Samridhi ke Pravesh Dwar'

<h3>Cultural Reawakening</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grand and divine temple of Prabhu Shri Ram in Shri Ayodhya Dham Transformation of the sacred city through the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor 66 Crore+ devotees took the sacred dip during the Mahakumbh 	<h3>Robust Law and Order</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero tolerance policy against crime and criminals Eradication of mafia, ensuring a fear-free environment No communal riots or caste-based conflicts reported since 2017 UP 112 police control response time reduced to just 6 minutes and 41 seconds 	<h3>Transformative Development</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Expressways operational, 15 more upcoming 16 Airports operational, 8 under construction Metro rail services in 7 cities - the highest in the country The country's largest airport ready in Noida
<h3>Governance Reforms</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparent, corruption-free governance Digitalisation of records Property ownership rights secured under the SVAMITVA Scheme 	<h3>Youth Empowerment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Lakh+ govt jobs through a transparent recruitment process 3 Crore+ employment opportunities in private sectors/MSMEs Interest-free loans under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan 	<h3>Industrial Growth & Investment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹50 Lakh Crore+ investment proposals received ₹15 Lakh Crore+ investments taking shape Boost to IT parks, AI, startup ecosystem, and data centre investments
<h3>Women Empowerment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Mission Shakti' Abhiyan dedicated to women's safety, dignity, and self-reliance 'Mission Shakti' centres in every police station Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana nurturing every daughter Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission fostering self-reliance across rural communities 	<h3>Agricultural Prosperity</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads the country in foodgrains, sugarcane, mangoes and milk production 3.12 Crore farmers benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, ₹99,000 crore+ transferred to bank accounts ₹3.15 Lakh crore+ distributed to sugarcane farmers, sugarcane price increased from ₹315 to ₹400 per quintal 	<h3>Tourism and MSME</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformation of cultural-spiritual tourist spots 156 Crore+ tourists visited in 2025 World-class temple museum underway in Ayodhya Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow 96 Lakh+ MSMEs operational One District-One Cuisine Scheme launched

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